

IMPERIAL PALACE GARDEN

❀(EAST GARDEN)❀

OPERATING HOURS: 0900 - 1600 (no entry after 1500)
CLOSED: Mondays & Fridays (unless Monday or Friday is a holiday)
25 December - 3 January & any day of an Imperial function

IMPERIAL PALACE - Located in the heart of Tokyo, the Imperial Palace Stands on the former site of Edo Castle. The largest castle in the land, it was the administrative center of the Tokugawa era. The original city of Edo was planned specifically to serve the needs of the castle. The soil of Edo Castle was taken over by the Imperial family after the Meiji restoration (c. 1868), and has been the site of the Emperor's residence since. Most of the original buildings were destroyed during the 1945 air raids. The new palace was completed in 1968. It was built in the Japanese style, using modern ferroconcrete materials. Surrounding the palace are the remains of the Edo Castle moats and three gardens, Higashi Gyoen (East Garden), Kitanomaru Koen (North Citadel Park) and the outer garden.

The general public is allowed to enter the inner palace grounds and see the palace building (usually) twice a year, on New Year's Day (actually on January 2nd) and on the Emperor's Birthday (December 23rd). These days are subject to change, based on the Emperor's schedule.

NIJU BASHI (二重橋) - This is the main bridge into the inner palace. It is a copy of Kyoto's Fushimi Castle Bridge and there are two spans. The first is made of stones from the old walls of the castle, and the second is made of iron. Picturesque Niju Bashi is a classic venue for artists and photographers.

➡ HOW TO GET THERE:

From YOKOSUKA

1. Go to YOKOSUKA CHUO 横須賀中央 Station and buy a ¥780 transfer ticket for TOKYO 東京 Station via SHINAGAWA, which is on the JR YAMANOTE J R 山手線 Line.
2. Go to track #2 and board a GREEN or RED KANJI train bound for SHINAGAWA 品川.
3. Get off at SHINAGAWA 品川 Station and transfer to JR YAMANOTE J R 山手線 Line.
4. Go down the stairs to track #1 and take JR YAMANOTE J R 山手線 Line train five stops to TOKYO 東京 Station.
5. Leave the train platform via the CENTRAL EXIT 中央口 stairs. Follow the bilingual signs to MARUNOUCHI CENTRAL EXIT 丸の内中央口, which is to the right at the bottom of the stairs. The exit is clearly marked.

NOTE: There are three exits off JR Yamanote platform at Tokyo Station: North, Central and South.

6. Cross the street in front of MARUNOUCHI CENTRAL EXIT 丸の内中央口, at the crosswalk a few meters to your right. Continue in a straight line away from TOKYO 東京 Station until you come to a wide street, with the Imperial Palace Plaza (tour bus parking) and one of the Palace moats on the opposite side.

If you would like to see Niju Bashi Bridge, walk straight in through the Imperial Palace Plaza and follow the moat around to the left. (The location of the bridge is marked on the map.)

To enter Higashi Gyoen (East Garden), follow the sidewalk and moat to the right instead of entering the Plaza. The closest gate to the gardens is about 100 meters from the Plaza. This gate is called OTE-MON (mon = gate), and it was the main gateway into the old Edo Castle. There are two other entry/exit gates for Higashi Gyoen. They are Hirakawa-mon and Kitahanebashi-mon. Visitors may use any of these gates.

Admission to Higashi Gyoen is free but visitors must stop by the information desk just inside the entrance and get a plastic "ticket" which is to be returned at any exit.

From IKEGO:

1. Go to JIMMUJI (神武寺) Station and buy a ¥ 710 transfer ticket for TOKYO 東京 Station on JR YAMANOTE Line.
2. Take a train from track #2 to KANAZAWA BUNKO 金沢文庫 (or Kanazawa Kakkei) and change to a GREEN or RED KANJI train bound for SHINAGAWA.
3. Continue as above #3.

➡Note: During certain time of the day it may be necessary to switch trains at KANAZAWA HAKKEI 金沢八景.

RETURN:

For your return trip from TOKYO Station you must buy two separate tickets. Buy one ticket for SHINAGAWA at TOKYO Station for JR YAMANOTE Line. At KEIKYU ticket window at SHINAGAWA station, turn in your JR YAMANOTE Line ticket and ask for a ticket to YOKOSUKA CHUO or JIMMUJI (IKEGO) station. The total cost for both tickets will be the same as for the transfer ticket you had earlier. From TOKYO Station to SHINAGAWA will cost you ¥160 and from SHINAGAWA to YOKOSUKA CHUO will cost ¥620; JIMMUJI for IKEGO ¥550.

Along the Series of Moats Encircling the Imperial Palace

